

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EDINBU 00021 031946Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 /109 W

----- 009894

R 031708Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS EDINBURGH 021

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, UK

SUBJECT: SNP FILED DAY OVER ALLEGED USG POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

REF: LONDON 1435

1. ARTICLE IN DESCRIBED REFTEL GAVE BILLY WOLFE AND HIS SNP TEAMMATES OPPORTUNITY TO SCORE IN SCOTTISH HEADLINES OVER THE WEEKEND, EG. 'HANDS OFF OUR OIL' (SCOTTISH DAILY EXPRESS LEAD HEADLINES), 'SNP HIT AT US VIEWS ON OIL' (GLASGOW HERALD FRONT PAGE).

2. WHAT AT ABERDEEN ATTENDING INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM MEETING I WAS ASKED BY BBC AND OTHER MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IF REPORT WERE TRUE THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS 'ADVISING MR WILSON TO RETAIN CONTROL OVER NORTH SEA OIL AND ITS REVENUES' AND 'COMING OUT AGAINST SCOTTISH ASSEMBLY.'

3. ON PERSONAL BASIS I RESPONDED THAT STORY SEEMED IMPLAUSABLE, PARTICULARLY A) IN VIEW OF OUR TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 EDINBU 00021 031946Z

INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES

ABOVE ALL ALLIES, AND B) SINCE THE CRUCIAL PROBLEM AFFECTING THE  
EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH SEA OIL RESOURCES INVOLVED IMMEDIATE  
ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN  
ANY LONG-RANGE PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE SNP. MY BARNYARD  
SIMILES WERE 'HYPOTHETICAL CART BEFORE RAMPANT HORSE' AND  
'NATIONALIST TAIL WAGGING SOCIALIST DOG'.

4. THIS WAS NOT TO DENY THAT I AND MOST AMERICANS HERE THINK THAT  
SNP OIL POLICY IE. TO EMULATE NORWAY, KEEP OIL IN GROUND AND  
EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE SCOTTISH WEAL, IS SHORT-SIGHTED, NARROW-  
MINDED AND ILL-INFORMED AND HAVE SO DEBATED WITH SNP REPRESENTATIVES  
ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS.

5. ONE WELL-PLACED SCOT OPINED THAT STORY WAS ENGLISH OR LABOUR  
INSPIRED 'RED HERRING' TO SHIFT SCENT OFF HMG INDUSTRIAL AND  
ECONONOMIC POLICY WHICH MIGHT BE OFFENSIVE IN WASHINGTON.

6. ANY AUTHORITATIVE INFORMATION AND DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE ON  
THE FOREGOING SUBJECT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
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